



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/624,649	07/23/2003	Robert R. Ricci	FS-00790	6899
7055 7590 03/13/2007 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191			EXAMINER HESS, DOUGLAS A	
			ART UNIT 3651	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		03/13/2007	ELECTRONIC	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 03/13/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

gbpatent@gbpatent.com
pto@gbpatent.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/624,649		RICCI ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Douglas A. Hess		3651	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Withdrawal from issue mailed 3-1-07.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 7-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>See Continuation Sheet</u> . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 8, 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jones (US Pat. No. 3,780,884).

See attached marked up cover sheet of Jones depicting the claimed features.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out

Art Unit: 3651

the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Teegarden et al. (US Pat. No. 5,427,252).

Jones teaches the claimed invention as outlined above, except for the generic bar code reader and optical recognition system of claim 7. Teegarden et al. teach the use of a bar code reader and optical recognition system in his sorting and stacking device. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the bar code and reader system of Teegarden into the device of Jones in order to further provide routing details for the bundles as they leave the Jones and go further downstream.

6. Claims 9, 10, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Carlson (US Pat. No. 4,119,219).

Jones teaches the claimed invention as outlined above, except for the generic diverter and distribution conveyor of claims 9 and 17. Carlson teaches the use of a diverter leading to two distribution conveyors, one distribution conveyor being orthogonal to the main conveyor in his sorting device. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the diverter and distribution conveyors of Carlson at the end of the device of Jones in order to further provide detailed distribution for the bundles as they leave the Jones and go further downstream.

Art Unit: 3651

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 4-6 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

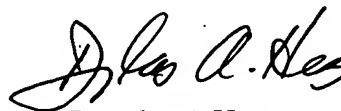
8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas A. Hess whose telephone number is 571-272-6915. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thurs 5:30 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Crawford can be reached on 571-272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3651

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Douglas A Hess
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3651

3-7-07

DAH
March 7, 2007

Continuation of Attachment(s) 6). Other: Cover Sheet of USP 3,780,884 and Cover Sheet of USP 3,937,336.

[54] **ARTICLE TRANSFER DEVICE**

[75] Inventor: **Robert Keith Jones**, Salt Lake City, Utah

Primary Examiner—Albert J. Makay
Attorney—Lynn G. Foster

[73] Assignee: **Kenway Engineering, Incorporated**, Woods Cross, Utah

[22] Filed: **Apr. 3, 1972**

[21] Appl. No.: **240,565**

[52] U.S. Cl. **214/8.5 D, 214/89**

[51] Int. Cl. **B65g 59/04**

[58] Field of Search **214/89, 6 DS, 8.5 C, 214/8.5 D, 6 H**

[56] **References Cited**

UNITED STATES PATENTS

3,206,041	9/1965	McGrath.....	214/8.5 D
3,409,149	11/1968	Graux.....	214/8.5 D
3,682,469	8/1972	Itoh.....	214/89 X
3,517,835	6/1970	Temple.....	214/8.5 D

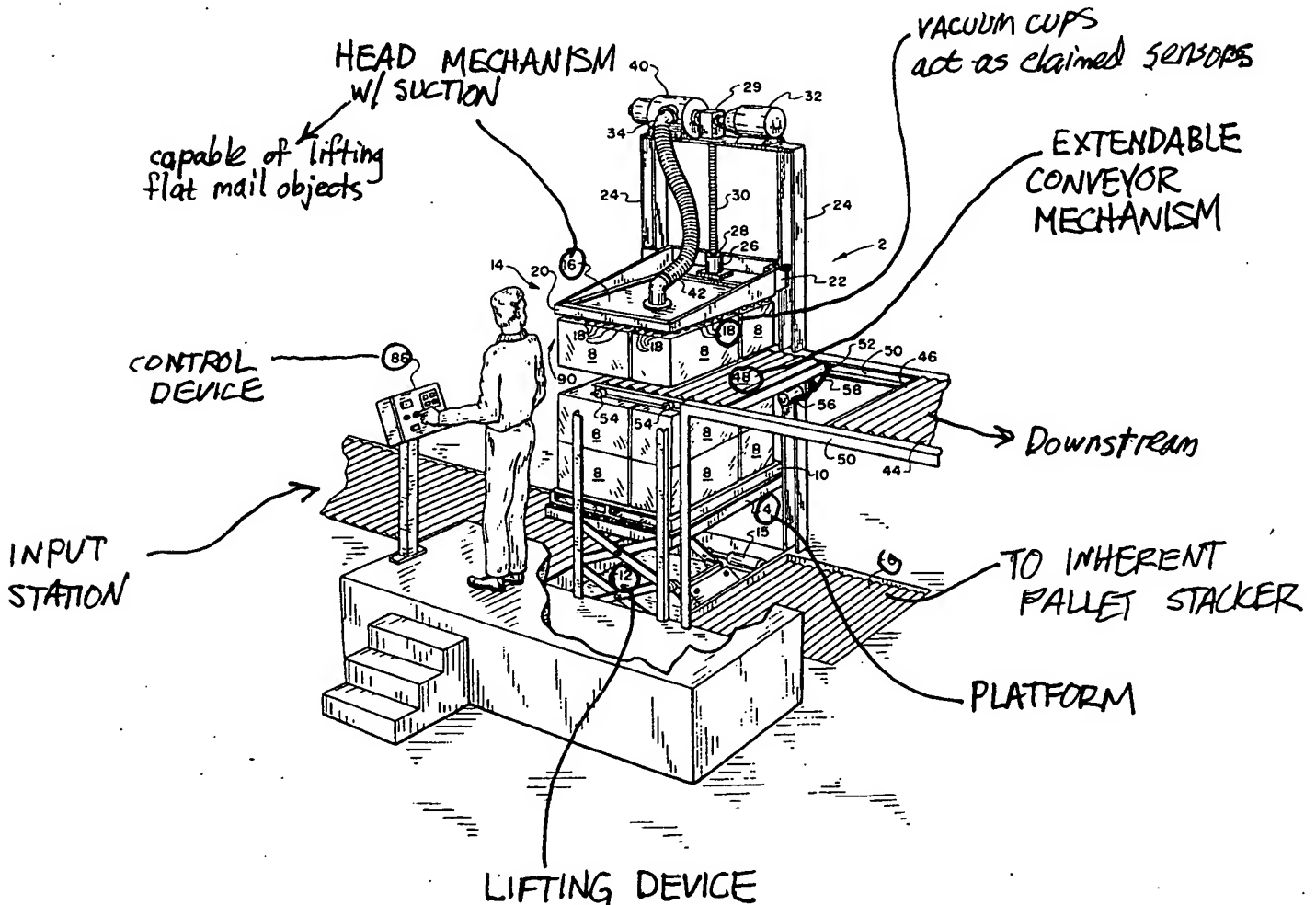
FOREIGN PATENTS OR APPLICATIONS

969,527	9/1964	Great Britain.....	214/6 H
---------	--------	--------------------	---------

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An article transfer device comprising a first conveyor, a platform positioned to permit transfer of articles between said platform and said first conveyor, a vacuum manifold mounted above said platform, a plurality of vacuum cups depending from said manifold and each having a bore communicating the gripping surface thereof with said manifold, elevating means for raising and lowering said platform into and out of a position to cause articles carried by said platform to engage at least one of said vacuum cups, a shuttle extendable to a position underlying said vacuum cups and retractable to a position removed from said vacuum cups, and a second conveyor positioned to permit transfer of articles between said shuttle and said second conveyor.

2 Claims, 3 Drawing Figures



[54] PALLETIZING AND DEPALLETIZING
APPARATUS FOR SUPPLEMENTAL FEED

[76] Inventor: Kenneth G. Carlson, 11350 N.
Valley Drive, 18 W., Mequon, Wis.
53092

[22] Filed: Oct. 23, 1974

[21] Appl. No.: 517,263

[52] U.S. Cl.: 214/6 P; 214/6 N; 214/6 TS;
214/8.5 A; 214/8.5 F

[51] Int. Cl.: B65G 60/00

[58] Field of Search: 214/6 P, 6 N, 6 F, 6 TS;
214/8.5 A, 8.5 F; 198/235

[56] References Cited
UNITED STATES PATENTS

2,508,861	5/1950	Jessen	214/6 P X
2,774,489	12/1956	Guigas	214/6 H
2,949,179	8/1960	Busse	214/6 N X
3,442,401	5/1969	Wolfe et al.	214/6 P
3,770,143	11/1973	Breitbach	214/8.5 A X
3,788,497	1/1974	Carlson	214/6 P
3,865,258	2/1975	Müller	214/6 P X

Primary Examiner—Robert J. Spar
Assistant Examiner—Leslie J. Paperner
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Wheeler, Morsell, House &
Fuller

[57] ABSTRACT

A conveying system for conveying cans from a can-making machine to a can-filling machine includes a first conveyor to supply cans from the can-making machine to the filling machine and a second conveyor or supplemental feed conveyor at right angles with a first conveyor to convey excess cans made by the can-making machine to a palletizing apparatus which includes pattern-forming means and a pallet elevator. When the flow of cans exceeds the requirements of the can-filling machine, the cans are diverted from the can-filling machine, patterned and palletized in layers in the pallet elevator. When the can-making machine is not supplying the requirements of the can-filling machine, or the can-making machine is shut down, stored cans are depalletized and conveyed onto the first conveyor. If the making machine is operating slower than the requirements of the filling machine, the second conveyor provides a supplemental feed of cans to the first conveyor. A sensor in the flow path to the filling machine senses a lack of movement of cans to the filling machine and thus an adequate supply of cans to the filling machine to actuate a gate to divert cans to the supplemental feed conveyor for palletizing and storage to thus enable continuous running of both the can-making and can-filling machines.

4 Claims, 10 Drawing Figures

